



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland
Coláiste Síciatrachta na hÉireann

Press Statement

Key Words for Psychiatrists from the Chief Executive of the HSE at Annual Spring Conference

Mr Cathal Magee, in addressing almost 200 psychiatrists at the opening of the Spring Conference of the College of Psychiatry of Ireland, stressed the increased recognition of the importance of mental health and improved mental health services in the health service plans of the HSE.

“We need to make mental health reform a priority” said Mr Magee. He pointed out that the section of the New Health Programme for Government is *‘Health and Mental Health’*. This is because there is a clear new awareness of the central importance of mental health for overall health and wellbeing and of the huge burden of mental illness in our society. Continuing he said *“What is changing is the political will and level of community support for improved mental health services.”*

Mr Magee told delegates of a 3 year corporate change plan which is in development and which will be the key to progress in this area. He said that this programme would be guided by the principles of *A Vision for Change*, a vision not just of cutbacks and closures but of real change. He emphasised his commitment to the development of Community Psychiatry. He also praised the involvement and commitment of senior leaders in Psychiatry in working with the HSE in the development of this plan. He emphasised the fundamental need for on going collaboration between the College of Psychiatry of Ireland and the HSE in working towards realising these changes.

Responding to Mr Magee’s hope for collaboration with the College of Psychiatry Dr Anthony McCarthy, President of the College, said *“ I’m encouraged by Mr Magee’s words today particularly by his emphasis on working constructively with our College in the future. Our mental health services need all of our clinicians and the HSE working together with shared vision and shared plans to improve the services we provide to some of the most vulnerable people in our society.”*

Ends

1 x photo attached

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Dr Anthony McCarthy with Mr Cathal Magee